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A COMPILATION OF THE

STATUTES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

RELATING TO

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY,

TOGETHER WITH THE

BY-LAWS,

RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND COUNCILLORS,

AND

CODE OF ETHICS.

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A COMPILATION OF THE

STATUTES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

RELATING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

IN FORCE JUNE, 1907.

I.

As health is essentially necessary to the happiness of society, and as its preservation or recovery are closely connected with the knowledge of the animal economy and of the properties and effects of medicines ; and as the benefit of medical institutions, formed on liberal principles, and encouraged by the patronage of the law, is universally acknowledged: *Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same,* That Nathaniel Walker Appleton, William Baylies, Benjamin Curtis, Samuel Danforth, Aaron Dexter, Shirley Erving, John Frink, Joseph Gardner, Samuel Holten, Edward Augustus Holyoke, Ebenezer Hunt, Charles Jarvis, Thomas Kast, Giles Crouch Kellogg, John Lynn, James Lloyd, Joseph Orne, James Pecker, Oliver Prescott, Charles Pynchon, Isaac Rand, sen., Isaac Rand, Micaijah Sawyer, John Sprague, sen., Charles Stockbridge, John Bernard Swett, Cotton Tufts, John Warren, Thomas Welsh, Joseph Whipple and William Whiting, be, and they hereby are, formed into, constituted, and made a body politic and corporate, by the name of *The Massachusetts Medical Society;* and that they and their successors, and such other persons as shall be elected in the manner hereafter mentioned, shall be and continue a body politic and corporate, by the same name forever. St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 1.

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II. Rules and By-Laws.

St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 6. The Fellows of said Society shall have full power and authority to make and enact such rules and by-laws for the better government of the said Society, as are not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth; and to annex reasonable fines and penalties to the breach of them, not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds, to be sued for and recovered by said Society, and to their own use, in any Court of Record within this Commonwealth proper to try the same; and also to establish the time and manner of convening the Fellows of said Society.

St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 2. The Fellows at their annual meeting, whenever such a number shall be present as the regulations of the Society may require, may revise, alter, enlarge or repeal the by-laws of the said Society as the major part of the said Fellows may see fit, and not otherwise.

III. Membership.

St. 1859, ch. 82, sec. 1. No person shall become a member of The Massachusetts Medical Society except upon an examination by the censors of said Society; and any person of good moral character found to possess the qualifications prescribed by the rules and regulations of the Society, shall be admitted a Fellow of said Society.

St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 5. The Fellows of said Society shall have power to suspend, expel or disfranchise any Fellows of said Society.

IV. Meetings.

St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 6. The Fellows shall have full power and authority to establish the time and manner of convening the Fellows of said Society; and to determine the number of Fellows that shall be present to constitute a meeting of said Society; and that their meetings shall be held in the town of Boston or such other place within this Commonwealth as a majority of the members present in a legal meeting shall judge most fit and convenient.

St. 1850, ch. 20, sec. 6. The annual meeting of the Society may be held in such one of the principal towns or cities of the Commonwealth as the Society or the Councillors shall from year to year determine.

V. Officers.

The Fellows of the Society shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to determine, and establish the names, number, and the duty of their several officers, and the tenure or estate they shall respectively have in their offices, and also to authorize and empower their President or some other officer, to administer such oaths to such officers, as they, the Fellows of the Society, shall appoint and determine for the well-ordering and good government of the Society, provided the same be not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth. St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 2.

Each of the District Societies into which The Massachusetts Medical Society has been or may be divided, may elect annually, by ballot, from among its members, the Councillors and Censors to which, by the by-laws of the Society, it may be entitled. The terms of office of such Councillors and Censors may begin at such times as shall be fixed by the rules and by-laws of the Society, and they shall hold their respective offices until others have been elected in their places. St. 1850, ch. 20, sec. 1. St. 1897, ch. 280, sec. 2.

At the first meeting of the Councillors, either preceding or succeeding the annual meeting of the Society as the Society may by its rules and by-laws determine, the said Councillors shall proceed to appoint, from among themselves, a President, and such other officers of the said Corporation as are and shall be required in the rules and by-laws thereof to be so appointed. St. 1897, ch. 280, sec. 1. St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 3.

Except as above provided, the Fellows of said Society may from time to time elect such officers as they shall judge necessary and convenient. St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 2.

At any meeting of the said Councillors they may fill any vacant office. St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 3.

VI. Councillors.

The Councillors of the said corporation shall assemble and convene three times in the year at such times and places as the by-laws of the said corporation shall direct. St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 3.

The first stated or annual meeting of the Councillors shall be held in the same place as the annual meeting of the Society of the year shall be held, and within thirty days before or after said annual meeting, as the Society shall in their by-laws direct. St. 1850, ch. 20, sec. 2.

St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 3. The said Councillors shall assemble and convene at any other times, as the by-laws of the said corporation shall direct, and whenever notified to convene by their presiding officer; and the meeting of the said Councillors shall be held in the town of Boston, or as near thereto as may be.

St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 3. At any meeting of the said Councillors they may perform any duties as the by-laws of said corporation may direct.

VII. District Societies.

St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 5. The Councillors upon the application of any five members of the said Society, may establish within such Districts and portions of this Commonwealth as they shall think expedient, subordinate societies and meetings, to consist of the Fellows of the said corporation residing within such districts respectively, wherein the communication of cases and experiments may be made, and the diffusion of knowledge in medicine and surgery may be encouraged and promoted. And the members of such subordinate societies shall be holden to report to the Councillors of the general Society all such cases as may be selected for their importance and utility; and the said subordinate societies shall be subject to the regulations of the general Society, in all matters wherein the general Society shall be concerned; and the said subordinate societies may appoint their own officers, and establish regulations for their particular government, not repugnant to the by-laws of the general Society; and shall be capable to purchase, and receive by donation, books, philosophical and chirurgical instruments, or other personal property, and may hold and dispose of the same, exclusively of any authority of the general Society.

VIII. Seal.

St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 3. The Fellows of the Society shall have one common seal, and power to break, change and renew the same at their pleasure.

IX. Suits.

St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 4. The Fellows of the Society may sue and be sued in all actions, real, personal, or mixed, and prosecute and defend the same unto final judgment and execution, by the name of The Massachusetts Medical Society.

The Treasurer, for the time being, of The Massachusetts Medical Society is hereby authorized to sue, in the name of said Society, in any action of debt, before any Court proper to try the issue, for such sums of money as may become due to said Society from any person being, or who has heretofore been, or who shall hereafter become a Fellow thereof, for the annual, or other assessments of said Society, or for penalties accruing under and by virtue of the by-laws and votes of said Society, by declaring generally, against the defendant, as indebted to said Society for the penalty accruing from the breach of any by-law thereof, or for a sum becoming due by virtue of any legal vote of said Society, (as the case may be) setting forth the substance only of such by-law or vote: and the Society shall thereupon recover judgment for so much debt or damages as they shall prove to be due, and no more. St. 1831, ch. 146, sec. 2.

X. Funds.

The Fellows of the Society may, and shall forever, be deemed capable in law of having, holding, and taking in fee simple, or any less estate by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, any land, tenement, or other estate, real or personal; provided, that the annual income of the whole real estate that may be given, granted or devised to, or purchased by the said Society, shall not exceed the sum of two hundred pounds, and the annual income or interest of said personal estate shall not exceed the sum of six hundred pounds; all the sums mentioned in this act to be valued in silver at six shillings and eight pence per ounce; and the annual income or interest of the said real and personal estate, together with the fines and penalties paid to said Society or recovered by them, shall be appropriated to such purposes as are consistent with the end and design of the institution of said Society, and as the Fellows thereof shall determine. St. 1781, ch. 15, sec. 9.

The Society is authorized to use the annual income of their permanent fund to defray their current expenses. St. 1850, ch. 20, sec. 3.

XI. Service in the Militia.

The Fellows of the said corporation shall not be liable to be enrolled or mustered in the militia of this Commonwealth. St. 1802, ch. 123, sec. 7.

BY-LAWS.

ADOPTED JUNE 12, 1907.

FELLOWSHIP.

1. Applicants for admission into THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY are required to satisfy the Censors that they are not less than twenty-one years of age; that they are of sound mind and of good moral character; that they possess a good English education; that they have received testimonials of graduation from a medical school recognized by the Council; that they do not practise any exclusive system of medicine; and that they, on further examination, possess such other qualifications as the Society shall deem necessary.

2. Applicants found to possess the qualifications required, shall, on payment of the assessment for the current year, and subscribing to the by-laws within three months from the date of their examinations, be approved by the Censors; and on further approval by the President and Secretary of the general Society, shall be admitted Fellows of the Society, and shall receive certificates of fellowship in testimony thereof signed by the President and Secretary.

HONORARY FELLOWS.

3. Honorary fellowship may be granted by a two-thirds vote in a stated meeting of the Council, provided nominations therefor shall have been submitted in writing by two or more Fellows to a previous stated meeting, referred to, and reported on by the Committee on Membership and Finance. Honorary Fellows shall be entitled to the privilege of attending and addressing the meetings of the Society, but shall not be accorded other rights or privileges, nor be subject to assessments.

RETIRED FELLOWS.

4. Fellows in good standing who are sixty-five years of age, whose assessments have been paid or remitted, may, by vote of the Council acting on a recommendation of the Committee on Membership and Finance, become retired Fellows.

Retired Fellows shall not be subject to assessment. They may, on their own request, be restored by the Council to active Fellowship.

ASSESSMENTS.

5. Fellows shall be assessed annually such a sum as the Council shall declare. Assessments shall be payable on or before the annual meeting of the Society. On recommendation of the Committee on Membership and Finance, assessments may be remitted by the Council.

RESIGNATIONS.

6. Fellows whose assessments have been paid in full, or remitted, may, on recommendation of the Committee on Membership and Finance, be allowed by the Council to resign their fellowship.

DISCIPLINE.

7. Fellows who have neglected payment of three annual assessments, and who continue to neglect payment after notification by the Treasurer, may be deprived of the privileges of fellowship by the Council acting on a report of the Committee on Membership and Finance. Such Fellows on making application in writing to be restored to the privileges of fellowship shall receive the consideration of the Council.

Fellows may be censured, deprived of the privileges of fellowship, or expelled from the Society, on conviction by a Board of Trial of charges duly made to the President as hereinafter provided, for wilful disobedience of law; attempts to destroy the Society, or to injure its usefulness; advertising nostrums for sale, or otherwise offering them to the public; professing to cure disease by secret remedies or secret methods of treatment; gross violation of the by-laws, or the code of ethics; presenting false certificates or statements of character or of educational acquirements; and for any other conduct unworthy of honorable physicians.

MEETINGS.

8. The annual meetings of the Society shall be held in Boston on the second Wednesday in June, unless otherwise ordered by the Council. Special meetings may be called by the President and Secretary, or by the Council.

Ten Fellows shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

DISTRICT SOCIETIES.

9. The District Society boundaries may be changed by the Council; and the Commonwealth, or any part thereof, may be re-divided for the purpose of establishing additional Societies.

The membership of District Societies shall consist only of Fellows residing within their respective boundaries.

10. The District Societies may adopt by-laws and regulations for their government not repugnant to the by-laws and regulations of the general Society.

They shall hold their annual meetings between the fifteenth day of April and the fifteenth day of May, when they shall elect by ballot a President who shall be *ex-officio* a Vice-President of the general Society; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Commissioner of Trials; Councillors in number equal to one for every twenty members, and a majority fraction thereof; and five Censors, one of whom shall be designated a Supervisor. Censors who are not Councillors shall not serve as Supervisors, and Fellows who have not been Fellows for at least ten years shall not serve as Censors. Councillors, Censors and Commissioners of Trials shall assume office on the day next preceding the annual meeting of the general Society.

11. The Secretaries of the District Societies shall, not later than two weeks before the annual meeting of the Council, report to

the Secretary of the general Society the names and residences of the officers, and of the Councillors, Censors and Commissioners of Trials representing their respective Societies.

12. The Treasurers of the District Societies shall collect the annual assessments and pay the same to the Treasurer of the general Society, and shall, before the first day of January in each year, render to him a detailed financial statement which shall contain the names of Fellows who have paid their assessments, and of those who are delinquent, and the names of Fellows who have died, or who have removed from their respective Districts during the year.

The District Treasurers shall be paid from the funds of the general Society for their services, a sum equal to five per centum of the assessments collected by them, plus the amount of their incidental expenses.

COUNCIL.

13. The Council shall consist of Councillors chosen by the District Societies. It shall hold three stated meetings annually in Boston. The first shall be the annual meeting, which shall be held on the day next preceding the annual meeting of the Society; the second, on the first Wednesday in October; the third, on the first Wednesday in February. Special meetings may be called by the President, or by the Council, and shall be called on a written request of ten Councillors.

Twenty Councillors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

14. The Council at its annual meeting shall elect by ballot officers of the Society as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, who shall assume the duties of office on the following day at the close of the annual meeting of the Society. Councillors only shall be eligible to the office of President.

Committees shall be appointed as follows: on Membership and Finance, Ethics and Discipline, Publication, Medical Diplomas, Medical Education, State and National Legislation, Scientific Papers, and Arrangements for the Annual Meeting; and a Fellow shall be appointed to deliver an oration at the annual meeting of the Society.

The Council may fill vacancies in office at any meeting, or choose additional officers or committees deemed necessary for the proper transaction of the business of the Society. In cases of temporary absence or disability of officers, the President may appoint substitutes pending action by the Council.

CENSORS.

15. The Supervisors representing the Censors of the several District Societies shall constitute a Board of Supervisors, which shall meet annually on the day appointed for the annual meeting of the Council. They shall be paid the amount of their traveling expenses. The Board shall elect a chairman who shall have power to call special meetings. Five Supervisors shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary of the general Society shall be Secretary of the Board. He shall keep a permanent record of the doings of the Board, and shall provide, at the expense of the Society, papers and blanks necessary for conducting examinations of applicants for fellowship. The Board at its annual meeting shall adopt a uniform plan for the examination of applicants.

The Supervisors shall be chairmen of their respective Boards of Censors, and shall cause the examination of applicants to be conducted in strict conformity to the plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

The Censors of the several District Societies shall meet semi-annually for the examination of applicants at 2 P.M., on the second Thursday in May, and on the second Thursday in November. Special meetings may be held by order of the Council.

Applicants for examination shall apply to the Secretary of the District in which they reside; non-resident applicants shall apply to the Secretary of the Suffolk District Society, and shall be examined by the Censors thereof. Applicants shall not be approved as possessing the requisite qualifications for fellowship by less than three Censors.

Following the examination of applicants, the District Secretaries, who shall act as secretaries of their respective Boards of Censors, shall promptly forward to the Secretary of the general Society a certified report stating that the successful applicants have complied with the requirements of the by-laws.

The Censors and Secretaries shall be paid from the funds of the general Society three dollars for each applicant examined. The amount paid shall be divided equally among those attending and taking part in the examinations.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

16. The PRESIDENT shall preside at the meetings of the Society and Council. In his absence, the Vice-President shall preside, and in the absence of both, the senior *ex-officio* Vice-President present shall preside.

The SECRETARY shall have custody of the seal and records of the Society, and the records of the Council. He shall issue notices of the meetings of the Society and of the Council, and shall keep a record of their respective proceedings, and of the doings of the Boards of Trial. He shall record nominations of candidates for honorary fellowship and report them to the Council.

He shall keep a complete list of the Fellows of the Society, and shall, not later than one week before the annual meeting, transmit to the Treasurer a list of those who have become Fellows during the year. He shall notify members of committees of their appointments, and shall perform such other duties as the Society or Council may require.

The TREASURER shall have the care and management of the fiscal concerns of the Society. He shall give security for the trust reposed in him as required by the Council. He shall, under the direction of the Council, sue for claims due the Society, and shall sell or lease any estate belonging to the Society. He shall submit all claims against the Society to the President for his approval before payment. He shall render to the Council annually a full account of his doings for the fiscal year, and shall perform such other duties as the Society or Council may require.

The LIBRARIAN shall have custody of the books, papers, and manuscripts of the Society ; and shall keep an accurate record of the same. He shall distribute the publications of the Society as directed by the Council, and shall perform such other duties as the Society or Council may require.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

17. The Committee shall have charge of papers, addresses and reports on scientific subjects, delivered before the Society, and shall consider the same with a view to their publication. If deemed worthy of publication, the Committee shall cause the same to be printed at the expense of the Society. Copies of papers and addresses shall be deposited with the Secretary, with a view to their publication, within ten days after their presentation.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE.

18. The Committee shall consider charges submitted in writing against Fellows for conduct unworthy of physicians, and, if deemed advisable, shall report them to the President. The chairman or some other member of the Committee shall act as prosecuting officer in trial cases.

It shall be the further duty of the Committee to consider and report on matters referred to it by the Society or Council.

BOARDS OF TRIAL.

19. Whenever charges of infraction of the by-laws, or of any other conduct unworthy of honorable physicians, shall be reported to the President by the Committee on Ethics and Discipline, he shall forthwith appoint five of the Commissioners of Trials, who shall constitute a Board of Trial to consider the charges. He shall designate a time and place for the meeting of the Board, and shall cause due notice thereof to be given to the complainants and the accused. In hearings given by Boards of Trial, Fellows may appear to plead for the accused, but legal counsel shall not be admissible. The non-appearance of the accused, or failure to represent themselves at trial, to contest the charges presented, shall be considered *prima facie* evidence of the truth of charges, and a verdict may be rendered accordingly. In case of conviction, the Board shall recommend such sentence as it shall deem just.

The Secretary shall enter upon the records of the Society the proceedings of Boards of Trial, and shall report them to the next annual meeting of the Society for final action thereon.

The Secretary shall notify the accused of the findings of Boards

of Trial; he shall also notify them of the action of the Society thereon, and the several District Societies of sentences imposed.

Commissioners serving on Boards of Trial, and prosecuting officers, shall be paid severally five dollars a day for attendance, plus the amount of their incidental expenses.

AMENDMENTS.

20. The by-laws of the Society may be amended at any annual meeting of the Society, provided proposals therefor shall have been submitted in writing to a previous meeting, or in the call of an annual meeting.

RULES.

The Society at any annual meeting, or the Council at any stated meeting, may adopt special rules for its government; and may amend or annul its rules, provided notice for such action shall have been given at a previous annual, or stated meeting, or in the call of an annual or stated meeting.

Rules of the Society or Council, may be suspended temporarily by a three-fourths vote.

SPECIAL RULES

OF

THE SOCIETY.

THE following order shall be observed in the transaction of business in the annual meeting:

1. Reading of the records of the last annual meeting.
2. Reports of Committees.
3. Propositions or suggestions relative to the welfare of the Society, or to medical science.
4. Incidental business.
5. Presentation of scientific communications.
6. Annual Oration.
7. Annual Dinner provided by the President and the Committee of Arrangements, at the expense of the Society.

The President may issue invitations to the annual dinner to visitors as guests of the Society.

SPECIAL RULES

OF

THE COUNCIL.

1. A publication shall be issued annually under the direction of the Committee on Publications, Secretary, and Treasurer. It shall contain the Annual Discourse, unless otherwise ordered by the Society or Council, and such other communications as the Committee on Publications may authorize; also an abstract of the proceedings of the Society and of the Council, which shall include the names of Councillors present at the several meetings of the Council; a list of the officers of the Society, and of the District Societies; a list of those who have been admitted to fellowship, of those who have been deprived of the privileges of fellowship, of those whose resignations have been accepted, and of those who have died, during the preceding year.

2. The publications of the Society shall be distributed by the Librarian to Fellows who have paid their assessments for the current year, and to Honorary and Retired Fellows applying for them.

3. The Secretary, one month before the annual meeting, shall issue to the Fellows a circular which shall contain:

a. Notification of the time and place of the annual meeting of the Society;

b. Notification of the stated meetings of the Council for the year, and of the meetings of the Boards of Censors;

c. Information concerning the payment of assessments, admission to the annual dinner, and the distribution of publications.

4. Nominations of committees shall be made by the President, unless otherwise ordered.

5. A Committee shall be appointed at the third stated meeting, to audit the Treasurer's accounts, and to report thereon at the annual meeting.

STANDING VOTES AND RESOLVES.

Voted, that the annual assessment be five dollars. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, May 29, 1866.)

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of each District Medical Society at its annual meeting to select one of its Councillors, and another as an alternate, as its representatives in the Nominating Committee for the Officers of The Massachusetts Medical Society; and in case of neglect of any District Society in the performance of such duty, the selection shall devolve on its Councillors who may be present at the annual meeting of the Council. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, Feb. 4, 1874, and June 8, 1897.)

Resolved, That in the opinion of the Councillors it is "unbecoming" and deserving of a penalty for a Fellow of The Massachusetts Medical Society not to appear as a witness before a Board of Trial, when summoned there by the Committee on Ethics and Discipline, without sending at the time an excuse satisfactory to the Board of Trial. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, Feb. 3, 1875.)

Voted, That all charges against Fellows of The Massachusetts Medical Society of a *criminal nature* should be referred by the Fellow cognizant thereof to the *legal prosecuting officer* of the District where they occur. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, June 12, 1877.)

Voted, Whenever a Fellow of this Society owing more than one assessment pays for one year or more, the payment or payments so made shall be invariably considered as for the assessments longest due, and for none others. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, June 13, 1876.)

Voted, That "the current year," By-Law 2, p. 9, line 11, for the purposes of said By-Law, begin on the fifteenth of April of each year; all resolves or votes to the contrary are hereby annulled. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, June 13, 1876.)

Ordered, That at the end of the present financial year and thenceforward, annually, there shall be set aside, as a dividend, such portion of the balance remaining in the Treasury as the Committee on Finance in consultation with the Treasurer shall determine, subject to the approval of the Councillors at their

annual meeting,—to be distributed to the several District Societies in proportion to the number of the annual assessments which shall have been paid in advance by the said Societies respectively. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, Oct. 4, 1876.)

Whereas, it is evident that the affairs of the Society can be best administered by the coöperation of those who have the widest experience with its conditions in all sections of the State: —

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Council, it is advisable that District Societies shall include in their election to the Councillors such ex-Presidents of The Massachusetts Medical Society as may reside therein. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, June 12, 1894.)

Voted, That the Committee of Arrangements for the Anniversary shall hereafter consist in part of members of the Council. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, June 12, 1894.)

Whereas, recent changes have been made in the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Medical Association re-organizing its form of government, in conformity thereto,

Voted, That the Resolution adopted by the Councillors in February, 1852, authorizing the District Societies, or their Presidents and Secretaries, to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association, to be entitled Delegates of The Massachusetts Medical Society, be rescinded.

Voted, That the Councillors, on nomination of the President, appoint Delegates to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the said Association. (*Councillors' Proceedings*, Feb. 5, 1902.)

[In accordance with the above the District Societies will not, as heretofore, appoint delegates to the American Medical Association.

Permanent members of the Association are entitled to attend its meetings without credentials as delegates from The Massachusetts Medical Society.]

CODE OF ETHICS

OF

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE Code is intended to establish certain general principles and rules of action for the Fellows of the Society.

I.

Physicians should encourage sound medical learning, and uphold in the community correct views of the powers and limitations of the science and art of medicine.

II.

The success of physicians depends upon their moral character, scientific attainments, industry and business talent. The kind of competition considered honorable in purely business transactions cannot exist among physicians without diminishing their usefulness and lowering the dignity and standing of the profession.

III.

The first duty of physicians is to their patients, who have a right to expect that their diseases will be thoroughly and confidentially investigated and properly treated, and that their mental peculiarities or infirmities will receive charitable consideration.

IV.

Physicians in their professional relations should be governed by strict rules of honor and courtesy. Their conduct toward each other should be such as to secure mutual confidence and good will.

Physicians should take no steps with a view directly or indirectly to divert to themselves the patients or practice of others.

They should not consent, except in cases of pressing emergency, to take charge of a patient when another is in attendance, until such attendant has been notified.

When called in cases of accident or other emergency they should relinquish them to the usual attendant, as soon as he is able to take charge.

V.

Consultations should be encouraged in cases of doubt or of unusual responsibility. The aim should be to give patients the advantage of collective skill. Discussions should be confidential. Consulting physicians should not say nor do anything to impair the confidence of patients or their attendants in the attending physicians.

VI.

Fee-tables have a local application only, and are designed to indicate reasonable charges for services. But with the understanding and consent of their patients beforehand, physicians may place any value upon their services deemed proper.

VII.

Physicians should endeavor to establish and maintain clear distinctions between legitimate medicine and quackery. They should not countenance secret remedies; nor be interested in proprietary preparations; nor receive commissions from apothecaries; nor advertise their methods of practice, or free consultations, or free distributions of medicines to the poor.

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M41 A compilation of the
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